Members of the Commission and on what consideration they have been included in the Commission;

(d) what will be the terms of reference of this Commission;

(e) by when the Commission is likely to submit, its report?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) A Commission has been set up for the Study of Issues Concerning the Protection of Labour Rights and Related matters. The Commission would *inter-alia* study the ILO Conventions relating to exploitative labour practices, freedom of association, collective bargaining, and discrimination in employment and assess the adequacy of our laws and implementation of these laws in the context of the Conventions. The Commission would develop an action plan for overcoming the identified problems and inadequacies if any. The Chairman of the Commission is Dr. Subramanian Swamy former Cabinet Minister, and the members are Shri A.V. Ganesan, former Commerce Secretary and Shri S.L. Passey a distinguished Trade Union Leader all of whom have experience relevant to the study of this subject. The Commission will make its recommendations within one year.

Close watch on exports to Russia

3549. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare a mechanism to keep a close watch on exports to Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In keeping with the common objective of ensuring transparency in Indo-Russian bilateral economic and commercial relations with strict adherence to bilateral agreements, it has been agreed by both sides to monitor carefully exports from India to Russia, particularly on the debt repayment track. Both sides have agreed to evolve systems to ensure that the commodity-wise break-up of exports of goods and services are available in a timely manner, and transactions are effected in keeping with bilateral agreements. A mechanism to monitor debt repayment exports from the Indian side, with these objectives in mind, is being evolved and will be put in place shortly for the common benefit of the Governments and trading communities of India and Russia.

Joint Venture Company between Mercedes Benz Ag. and Telco

3550. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the establishment of a Joint Venture Company between Mercedes Benz Ag. of Germany and TELCO for manufacturing Mercedes Benz passenger cars at a new plant in Pune as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 5th August, 1994; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating, (i) Mercedes Benz's investment in the total cost of project (ii) annual production capacity and target set for production and by when it is expected to start (iii) the holding company's share equity of the Joint Venture and TELCO's balance equity and (iv) likely production of engine by Pune Plant for cars etc. by 1994-95.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) M/s. Daimler Benz, the holding company of Mercedes Benz will invest about Rs. 178.5 crores. (ii) The annual capacity of the joint venture will be to

produce 20,000 cars. Commercial production is anticipated to commence by July, 1996. (iii) The joint venture will have 51% equity participation by M/s. Daimler Benz and the balance 49% will be contributed by M/s. TELCO. (iv) There will be no production of engines in 1994-95 as the Joint venture will take up only assembly of cars from semi-knock down kits supplied by M/s. Mercedes Benz.

Duping of investors by M/s. Eassy Agro and Fish Farms

3551. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several advertisements are appearing in the press by investors in the Agro-Sector for planting more trees and earning huge amount of money by way of returns;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Agro and Fish Farms have duped hundred of investors and have been arrested by Delhi Police; and

(c) if so, what regulations Government is bringing to curb this kind of cheating?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pesticide contamination affecting export of food items

3552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious concern expressed on the consumption of pesticide contaminated foods both of plant and animal origin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the West, where our farm products including spices, tea, coffee, tobacco, fruit, vegetables and other products are exported there is awareness and resistance to consumption of pesticide contaminated products; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that exports of various items especially tea and rice have been affected; and if so, details of the decrese in exports of various items including cotton and fibres on this account and corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is growing concern on consumption of pesticide contaminated foods in developed countries.

It is not correct to say that exports of tea, rice, cotton etc. have declined due to increasing concern about pesticides contamination. Overall exports of agricultural commodities have been steadily increasing.

Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Export Inspection Agencies have been organising educational programmes disseminating necessary information on the subject providing analytical and technical support to growers, processors and exporters and also taking up awareness programmes through audio-visual media.

Representations from exporters for getting steel from domestic manufacturers

3553. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations from exporters to allow them to get steel from domestic manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/ propose to take in the matter?